



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: TACIR Commissioners

FROM: Harry A. Green
Executive Director

DATE: January 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Beyond Capacity: Issues and Challenges Facing County Jails

1. TACIR staff presented a draft version of the legislatively mandated report *Beyond Capacity: Issues and Challenges Facing County Jails* at the December 2006 Commission meeting. Commissioners requested additional information on a number of topics, to include:
 - a. Impact in other states of regional jails on state reimbursements to local governments for jail costs.
 - b. Whether or not the language in TCA § 41-1-141 stating that regional jails would allow counties to save funds and lower their liability risks is based upon specific research.
 - c. Whether there has been any demonstrated savings in jail expenses or liability expenses in other states through the use of regional jails.
 - d. The number of municipal governments operating jails in Tennessee.
 - e. Whether or not there is a time limit on how long a prisoner can be classified as a detainee while waiting for a probation hearing.
 - f. Whether or not the federal reimbursement rate is based on actual costs or is a capped amount.

Staff is preparing responses to these queries and will present those and any resulting changes to the draft report during the January 2007 meeting.

2. Additionally, the staff is assessing what information can be added to the report in order to address the possibility of implementing a regional jail pilot program in Tennessee.